

## **Progress Activity of BCI Pilot Site Eastern Plains of Mondulkiri, Cambodia**

### **Introduction**

Mondulkiri forest and biodiversity is crucial requirement for conservation development. The Eastern Plain BCI project is operating inside corridors of Mondulkiri Protected Forest, Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary, and Seima Biodiversity Conservation Area. The project conserves biodiversity and connects ecosystem from one protected forest to other protected areas through establishing communities and association inside 8 target communes: 2 communes in Koh Nhek district, 2 communes in Pichreada district, 3 communes in Keo Seima district and 1 commune in O' Rang district. The project is jointly implemented by WWF and WCS with close collaboration of Provincial Rural Development Committee, district authorities and commune councils.

### **Project Achievements**

#### ***Poverty Alleviation***

- Established NRM groups on Participative Land Use Planning, Community Protected Forest, Community Protected Area, and Indigenous Land Titling & Land Use Planning including NTFP associations on Association of Honey Collectors, and Association of Resin Collectors.
- Pilot projects in improved agriculture in 3 villages, ecotourism in 2 villages, honey and resin marketing in 6 villages.
- Developed small-scale infrastructure through constructing meeting hall for indigenous community, wells, bio-digester and developed honey processing equipment.

#### ***Harmonized Land Management***

- Formed coordination system through: 1. Developed tripartite memorandum of agreement between WWF, WCS and Provincial Rural Development Committee. 2. Officially formed a Provincial Working Group for provincial conservation planning issued by provincial government. 3. Formed Wildlife Ecotourism Management Board.
- Mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity conservation and NRM plans into 5-year Commune Development Plan of 11 communes and annual CIP of 12 communes including reviewing commune profiles. BCI progress activities also integrated into quarterly and annual report of ExCom and 6 bulletin of ExCom, January-June 2008.
- Developed Provincial Biodiversity Review mapping zones of importance of forest and wildlife conservation in Mondulkiri. It also reviews of economic concessions conducted at request of provincial authorities and one concession inside Mondulkiri Protected Forest revoked by provincial governor's office.

#### ***Ecosystem Connectivity***

Being reduction of impacts in and between core biodiversity areas through strengthened management at site level and enhanced management systems across 3 core sites through restructuring senior staff, expanded community teams and patrol activities, expanded wildlife monitoring team and increased employment for local residents. The measures of threat reduction developed through analysis underway of populations of key species, vegetation cover, demographic pressures, and illegal activities detection.

### ***Capacity Building***

The project developed training need assessment among all levels of local government, training curriculum/programs with 3 subjects for provincial government officials and 3 subjects for commune council members. In addition, the project provided study tour to provincial government departments on sustainable community forestry management and ecotourism at Siem Reap and Preah Vihear provinces. 4 subjects were trained at community levels: PLUP process, community management, rights to use NR, and sustainable honey and resin collection.

### ***Sustainable Financing***

It was under scoping workshop with Cardamoms BCI since May 8, 2008. Beside this, it drafted scoping paper on carbon trading through voluntary REDD credits, Ecotourism management, Commercial Community Forestry, Trust Fund formation, and revolving funds (Rural Credit).

### **Challenges**

#### ***External Factors***

- Fast economic development, in-migration by smallholders and low education of people cause land alienation, deforestation and black market wildlife trade (both inside and outside province)
- Current large-scale private sector investment for rubber plantation expansion, mining, and planned hydropower construction likely to strongly impact forests, NTFP, existing livelihoods and wildlife conservation.

#### ***Internal Factors***

- 2 different map sources being used for land use planning in purpose of commune and community development
- At least 41 of 91 villages are located inside corridors between LPWS, MPF, PPWS, NLWS and SBCA.
- Unclear instruction on CPF, CCF and Associations locations and formation process inside MPF and SBCA.

### **Legal Framework**

The necessary legal instruments already exist – key task is to harmonize and implement effectively: a). Gain stakeholder consensus on the design of the provincial biodiversity corridor; b). Develop a sub-decree to strengthen the SBCA and reclassify main zones within production and protection areas; c). Full zoning of SBCA, MPF and PPWS completed, waiting approval; d). Clarify the scope for community-based management agreements within different zones of MPF and SBCA; e). Incorporate biodiversity conservation into 5-year provincial strategic development plan and Provincial State Land Mapping process; f). Strengthen trans-boundary cooperation. Existing agreement between Cambodian MAFF and Vietnamese MARD dated 28-31 December 2003 at Hanoi related to Forestry cooperation program in effective protection and development in the two countries; and g). Strengthen law enforcement teams and construct ranger posts and/or mobile post a long site corridor between MPF PPWS, NLWS, SBCA and along side corridors between Cambodia and Vietnam.